

**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF**

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**31 JAN 1968**



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General R. J. Reeves  
Commander-in-Chief  
Continental Air Defense Command  
Ft Air Force Base, Colorado 80912

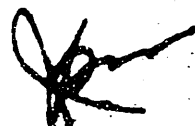
Dear Bunky

I share the concern expressed in your letter over our inability to obtain support and approval of an improved Satellite Interceptor System. I also agree that the Lockheed concept is promising and we have considered it along with other concepts. However, our difficulty has not been the lack of feasible and effective concepts but our inability to convince the approval authority that we face a significant threat from satellite systems. The reorientation of our current anti-satellite program to application against the ballistic missile threat exemplifies the lack of acceptance of an interceptor limited to a satellite threat. Any assistance you could offer in this area would be helpful.

The problem of making an acceptable case involves more than just an attractive proposition for satellite intercept and negation. I feel that substantive improvement of our national strategic offensive and defensive forces will only come from an assessment of the total threat, including the ICBM, SLBM, FOBS, MOBS, and aircraft, and the proper mission and systems defined. Several activities to support this solution are underway in the Air Staff and the AFSC. Our needs and possible solutions for identification of space objects will be determined to a large degree by the results of these activities. At the same time, the Air Force will continue research and development to support an intercept capability.

Your assistance in providing further illumination of operational deficiencies based on the threat spectrum will contribute substantially to the success of these endeavors.

Sincerely

  
J. P. McCONNELL, General, USAF  
Chief of Staff